

Name: NOTES  
Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ch. 5: Theme and Allusions

### Hints for Reading Poetry

- ☐ Before you read, preview the text.
- ☐ Read the poem without stopping and without annotating (at least twice.)
- ☐ When you finish reading the poem, write a 1-3 sentence summary at the bottom of the page.
- ☐ Then reread and slowly annotate each stanza.
- ☐ Poems are tricky- especially with their use of pronouns. Label who/what each pronoun refers to.
- ☐ What is the theme of the poem?

#### Nothing Gold Can Stay

Nature's first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue<sup>1</sup> to hold.  
Her early leaf's a flower,  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides<sup>2</sup> to leaf,  
So Eden<sup>3</sup> sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day  
Nothing gold can stay.

By: Robert Frost

Summary: All beautiful things fade away  
(seasons, days, etc.)  
Spring is beautiful/perfect  
But spring doesn't last  
Summer comes  
But it doesn't last either  
Then autumn comes and leaves fall  
Paradise disappears/falls apart  
The morning → afternoon  
Nothing beautiful lasts forever

I think the theme of this poem is nothing beautiful lasts forever

because in the poem spring, summer, fall, paradise,  
and morning all end.

<sup>1</sup> **hue:** a color or a shade of a color

<sup>2</sup> **subside:** to become less strong or intense; to move down to a lower level

<sup>3</sup> **Eden:** paradise; according to the Bible, Eden is where Adam and Eve first lived